



## O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

### This month's highlights

- Happy Halloween from all the O'Malleys!
- Get in touch and share your stories!
- Could the Irish have beaten Columbus to America?
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- Family Tree DNA- The O'Malley Project

### Happy Halloween from all of us O'Malleys!

The weeks are flying by and its not long until Halloween will be upon us! The ancient harvest festival has come a long way from its Irish origins with witches and ghosts abounding around the globe these days! We' d like to wish all O'Malleys around the world, a happy, peaceful, (well reasonably), and safe Halloween!



**Volume 1, Issue 1**  
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**O'Maille**

**O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter**

**This month's highlights**

- Welcome to the new O'Malley Clan Association Newsletter "Ó Máille" from the Clan Chairman.
- The new US Ambassador to Ireland Mr Kevin F. O'Malley.
- Don O'Malley's new edition "The O'Malley Project" - Why the O'Malleys?
- The O'Malley Clan Rally 2018.
- President's Report 2017 - Don O'Malley's Report on the O'Malley Project.
- About the O'Malley Clan Association.
- President's Report 2017 - Don O'Malley's Report on the O'Malley Project.

**Welcome to our new newsletter from Clan Chairman Brigid O'Malley**

Many, many thanks, and I'd like to say a big thank you to all those who have supported the O'Malley Clan Association for the past 10 years. It's been a great journey and I'm proud to be part of it. I hope all of our members, and all those who are interested in the O'Malley Project, will find this newsletter a useful and enjoyable read. I'll be happy to hear from you all and to hear what you think of the newsletter. I'll be happy to hear from you all and to hear what you think of the newsletter. I'll be happy to hear from you all and to hear what you think of the newsletter.

**The New US Ambassador to Ireland Mr Kevin F. O'Malley**

The O'Malley Clan Association has been very fortunate to have the new US Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Kevin F. O'Malley, as a guest at both the Washington and New York O'Malley Clan Association events. Mr O'Malley is a very successful businessman and a very active member of the O'Malley Clan Association. He has been a member of the O'Malley Clan Association since 1998 and has been a very active member of the O'Malley Clan Association since 1998.

**Welcome to Ireland's Ambassador to the O'Malley Project**

Mr O'Malley has been a very active member of the O'Malley Clan Association since 1998 and has been a very active member of the O'Malley Clan Association since 1998.

### Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!

Have you got an article or old photographs that you'd like to submit for future editions of "O Máille" The O'Malley Clan Association Newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you wherever you're based around the world. Old photographs and stories to go with them, old letters, family trees or just an arti-

cle that you'd like to share with the rest of the clan. Drop us a line and We'll get right to it!



## Did the Irish beat Columbus to America?



*From an Article in Apalachian Magazine, West Virginia, USA.*

Each October, the entire nation celebrates the life of Christopher Columbus, crediting him for “discovering” America in 1492 – but if you’re like me, you find this concept somewhat laughable in and of itself, as millions of people were already living on the continent for thousands of years before Columbus was even conceived; however, we’ll save that debate for some other day!

Instead, today, we’re going to explore the unimaginable and incredible scenario in which Columbus’ voyage to the Caribbean was predated by nearly a thousand years by Christian Irish missionaries, who not only landed on America’s mainland but explored as far inland as Mingo County, West Virginia.

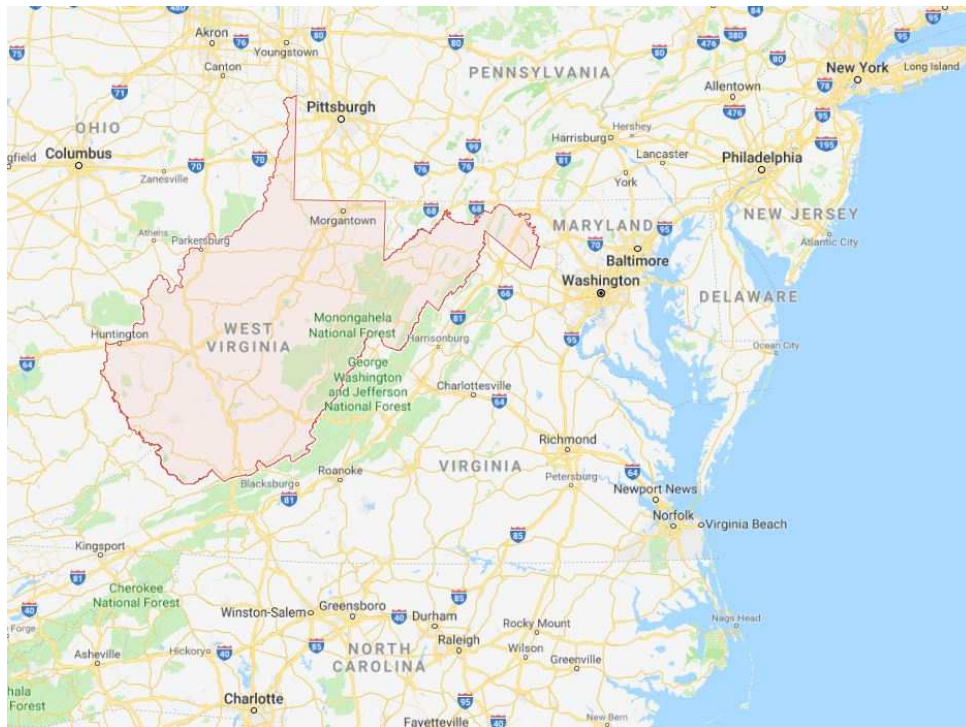
Though the evidence is hardly enough to put someone to death over, the mounting case does deserve more of a credible look than many are allowing.

Archaeologists first began exploring the possibility of ancient Irish missionaries in the new world, roughly a generation ago, after local residents discovered ancient markings and engravings on large boulders near a strip mines in the tiny Southern West Virginia community of Dingess.

Discovered in the 1980s, the slabs of rock were found on property owned by the Marrowbone Development Corporation and immediately became the source of study for scholars from around the world, as the markings were said to resemble ancient Irish letters known as Celtic Ogham.

In October of 1988, representatives from the Irish Embassy, including the nation’s secretary of cultural affairs met with archaeologist Robert Pyle to examine the ancient rock carvings, referred to as petroglyphs.

## Did the Irish beat Columbus to America? (contd)



Speaking to members of the media, Pyle was quoted as having said, “They’re really unique. They have Christian religious symbols that are identifiable, many of them identifiable were recorded very early... The markings appear to be from around as early as the eighth century to the 12th century A.D.”

The veteran archaeologist said that he believed the markings were made by early Irish missionaries who followed major trails through the mountains, stating, “It’s really a tremendous discovery.”

Pyle is not alone in his belief that the Irish were roaming the hills along the Tug Valley centuries prior to Columbus’ voyage.

Dr. Barry Fell, a biologist who has studied numerous archaeological sites and ancient languages, contended that ancient West Virginia Petroglyphs were indeed written in the ancient Irish language known as Ogham.

Translating rock markings found in neighboring Wyoming County, West Virginia, Dr. Fell concluded that the ancient message carved into the rocks read:

*“At the time of sunrise, a ray grazes the notch on the left side on Christmas Day, the first season of the year, the season of the blessed advent of the savior Lord Christ. Behold he is born of Mary, a woman.”*

The translation leads Fell to believe the ancient markings are part of an ancient solar calendar created to bear a Christian message.

One article states:



## Did the Irish beat Columbus to America? (contd)

*“To try and prove this theory a small group decided to verify the translation. Calculating the difference between the Julian calendar, used until the 16th Century, and today’s Gregorian calendar, they met at the petroglyph just before sunrise on December 22, 1982. Quietly they waited as the sun climbed in the east, spilled over the mountains, and streamed its rays toward the cliff face before them. They watched in amazement as the first shaft of sunlight funneled like a flashlight beam through a 3-sided notch in the cliff overhang and struck the center of a sun symbol on the left side of the panel. As they watched in awe, the beam pushed the shadow from left to right, slowly bathing the entire message in sunlight like a prehistoric neon sign announcing yet another Christmas, as it has done for centuries. Before their eyes, they had received a message across the ages.*

*“Subsequent visits showed that the phenomenon only occurred at the winter solstice; and at other times of the year the sun only partially lit the message. In 1985, the distinguished Celtic scholar, Professor Robert T. Meyer visited the site and responded to a question regarding its authenticity in these words: ‘Nobody could have faked this sort of thing unless they had a very deep knowledge of Celtic philosophy, for this is very archaic, and probably from the sixth or seventh centuries. This, for Celtic scholars, is probably at least as important as the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls . . . because it shows that Irish Monks, I suppose, came here, I would say, about 1500 years ago.’”*

In 1989 lawyers Monroe Oppenheimer and Willard Wirtz wrote an article based on opinions of other archaeologists and linguists experts, disputing the theory that the inscription is written in Ogham script. They further accused Fell of deliberate fraud, a charge Fell denied.

Today, the carvings of the Dingess Petroglyphs remain a controversial mystery.

Thanks to subscriber Dawn Richards, Connecticut, USA for the article

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## Did the Irish beat Columbus to America? (contd)



The Carvings in Dingess, West Virginia, USA.





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*The O'Malley Clan Association aims to reach out to O'Malleys from all around the world and foster links between the O'Malleys around the globe and the clan at home here in Ireland.*

*The Clan Association formed in 1953 has been connecting O'Malleys around the world in The US and Canada, Britain, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, South America, and anywhere else you can think of for over 60 years now.*

*We hope with our new website, and newsletter, that We can go from strength to strength in our aim to connect all the O'Malleys around the world.*

## The O'Malley Clan DNA Project on Family Tree DNA

The most common queries we get at The O'Malley Clan Association are queries in relation to helping to trace peoples ancestors in Ireland. As we all know, written records can only take us so far, (if you're lucky you'll get back to the early 1800's or late 1700's).

Many of the Irish Census Records and other historic documents were destroyed during the early part of the 20th century and as a result it can be very hard to trace ancestors back beyond the 19th century. Church records are a help, but can be patchy at times.

One way of narrowing down the search is through DNA testing. The O'Malley Clan Association is involved in a project with Family Tree DNA to test as many O'Malleys as possible to try and expand our knowledge of our roots as much as we possibly can.

There's a specific page for the project on the Family Tree DNA website:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/omalley/about>

Check it out, there's lots of info there, and administrators also for any questions.

